

CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OF JANUARY 26, 2015

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Dave Lucchesi on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Tony Wilmers, Deb Mann, Ron Blau, Dave Lucchesi, Lisa McKenzie, Bob Wenc and Glenn Anderson

Absent: Dan Lorenzetti

Guests: Wayne Butler

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Blau to give an excused absence for Dan Lorenzetti.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Wilmers to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Blau and seconded by McKenzie to approve the December 8, 2014 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Public Comments: None

Vice-Chairperson Lucchesi noted that both Tony Wilmers and Dan Lorenzetti were re-appointed to 3 year terms on the Planning Commission.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the Annual Heikinpaiva schedule of events. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, January 31st at 11 a.m.

-Noted the 8th Annual Barnelopet Children's Cross Country Ski Race will be held on Sunday, February 8th at 1:00 p.m.

-Received an update on the Soren Dresch plan to rehab the Masonic Building located at 228 Hancock St. Bids were opened on December 15, 2014 for \$471,530. The City has received a \$140,000 MSHDA grant to help fund four apartments. At this time, it appears Soren Dresch will not go through with the project over concerns on his return on investment.

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-Reviewed 2013 MDOT Average Daily Traffic (ADT) counts in the City. Hancock Street has 12,756 vehicles and Quincy Street has 6,600 vehicles. The Lift Bridge has 24,900.

-Reviewed the expected State budget deficit of \$325 million, with the stated cause being the State awarding business tax credits over the last 10 years. Now that the economy is expanding, companies are now creating new jobs, so they can access the tax credits given by the State.

-Reviewed the US41/M26 Corridor meeting notes of November 13, 2014.

-Reviewed a Copper Country Audubon Society article on the Lift Bridge Peregrine Falcons.

-Heard the City has put on the City web site a map of the Lakeside Cemetery.

-Reviewed 12 month and 24 month property sales study conducted by the County Equalization Dept.

-Looked at vacant land values for 2014 provided by the Houghton County Equalization Dept.

-Heard the City was exploring a grant opportunity to purchase the Swedetown Creek Corridor.

-Heard that Subway Franchise owner Tom Teliin has purchased the lot on the corner of Mesnard and Quincy St.

-Heard the City was expecting to receive a \$240,000 MSHDA Housing Grant, down from the \$480,000 originally applied for.

-Heard that Mike Pflaum will remain Superintendent of the Keweenaw National Historic Park

-Heard that Hancock Street may get a temporary traffic light during the 2016 MDOT project at the US41/M203 intersection.

-Heard that Portage Health will get a new CFO, Steve Bishop and New CEO Jeff Lang

-Heard that Mt. Ripley is expected to add a snow tubing park next year.

The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed electric energy settlement crafted by Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schutte, The plan calls for:

- UPPCO to purchase all WE Energies assets in the UP, including the Presque Isle Power plant
- Cliff's National Resources will start buying power from PIPP by February, 2015.
- Cliff's and Invenergy will construct a new natural gas power plant by 2020, when PIPP will be closed.

The Commission reviewed the details of the May 5th proposal to increase road funding. The ballot proposal, if passed, would generate over \$2 billion in new funds, of which \$1.3 billion would be for transportation.

Commissioner Lucchesi said the state should more fully understand the hidden cost of road salt and salt brine on vehicle rust.

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The Commission heard that Glide Path held a 16 acre 3 year option to purchase land in the City from Paul Tomasi for the possible construction of a peaking natural gas power plant.

Commissioner Wenc stated Mt. Ripley hosted an International Student Ski Day with over 115 skiers attending.

Commissioner Mann said she will be chairing the St Patrick's Day parade and event this year.

Commissioner McKenzie talked about a possible parking use for the old hardware store, 224 Quincy St.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary